

October 10, 2001

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Don Sloma, Executive Director

RE: Laurie Garrett Testimony

Background and Summary

Ms. Laurie Garrett is the author of *The Coming Plague* and *Betrayal of Trust*, two award winning accounts of emerging diseases and the condition of our nation's and the world's public health infrastructure. In addition, Ms. Garrett has written extensively about public health disaster preparedness. Currently a journalist with Newsday, where her accounts of health issues surrounding the recent tragedy in New York are appearing, her work has appeared in numerous publications. Ms. Garrett has been awarded the Peabody, the Polk (twice), and the Pulitzer for her scientific reporting.

Because of her knowledge and analysis of global public health systems, the Board thought it valuable to illicit Ms. Garrett's views on its work priorities and future direction. To that end, the Board asked Ms. Laurie Garrett to respond to its survey of priority work for fiscal years 2001 and 2002.

Ms. Garrett's responses, together with references and explanatory material provided by Board staff, are included in the attached document.

Additional information on Ms. Garrett can be found on her website:

<http://www.lauriegarrett.com>. Ms. Garrett's recent reporting on health developments surrounding the recent tragedies in New York can be found at <http://www.newsday.com>

Ms. Garrett is here today to share her views on subjects related to the Board's priority interests in public health infrastructure, public forums, meaningful engagement between the public and public health entities and other subjects you may wish to pursue with her.

Recommended Board Motion:

None.